

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1279, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 236 Sharkey Street in Clarksdale, Mississippi, as the 'Aaron E. Henry Federal Building and United States Courthouse'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2412 and H.R. 1279, as amended, the measures just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

#### CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND REAFFIRMING UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 292) congratulating the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 292

Whereas section 2(c) of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8) states "[t]he preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan" to be an objective of the United States;

Whereas Taiwan has become a multiparty democracy in which all citizens have the right to participate freely in the political process;

Whereas the people of Taiwan have, by their vigorous participation in electoral campaigns and public debate, strengthened the foundations of a free and democratic way of life;

Whereas Taiwan successfully conducted a presidential election on March 18, 2000;

Whereas President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan has actively supported the consolidation of democratic institutions and processes in Taiwan since 1988 when he became head of state;

Whereas this election represents the first such transition of national office from one elected leader to another in the history of Chinese societies;

Whereas the continued democratic development of Taiwan is a matter of funda-

mental importance to the advancement of United States interests in East Asia and is supported by the United States Congress and the American people;

Whereas a stable and peaceful security environment in East Asia is essential to the furtherance of democratic developments in Taiwan and other countries, as well as to the protection of human rights throughout the region;

Whereas since 1972 United States policy toward the People's Republic of China has been predicated upon, as stated in section 2(b)(3) of the Taiwan Relations Act, "the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means";

Whereas section 2(b)(6) of the Taiwan Relations Act further pledges "to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan";

Whereas on June 9, 1998, the House of Representatives voted unanimously to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 270 that called upon the President of the United States to seek "a public renunciation by the People's Republic of China of any use of force, or threat to use force, against democratic Taiwan";

Whereas the People's Republic of China has consistently refused to renounce the use of force against Taiwan;

Whereas the State Council, an official organ at the highest level of the Government of the People's Republic of China, issued a "white paper" on February 21, 2000, which threatened "to adopt all drastic measures possible, including the use of force," if Taiwan indefinitely delays entering into negotiations with the People's Republic of China on the issue of reunification; and

Whereas the February 21, 2000, statement by the State Council significantly escalates tensions across the Taiwan Straits and sets forth a new condition that has not heretofore been stated regarding the conditions that would prompt the People's Republic of China to use force against Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—*

(1) the people of Taiwan are to be congratulated for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and for their continuing efforts in developing and sustaining a free, democratic society which respects human rights and embraces free markets;

(2) President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan is to be congratulated for his significant contributions to freedom and democracy on Taiwan;

(3) President-elect Chen Shui-bian and Vice President-elect Annette Hsiu-lien Lu of Taiwan are to be congratulated for their victory, and they have the strong support and best wishes of the House of Representatives and the American people for a successful administration;

(4) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the People's Republic of China should abandon its provocative threats against Taiwan and undertake steps that would lead to a substantive dialogue, including a renunciation of the use of force against Taiwan and progress toward democracy, the rule of law, and protection of human and religious rights in the People's Republic of China; and

(5) the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8) are hereby affirmed as the legal standard by which United States policy toward Taiwan shall be determined.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gen-

tleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the distinguished majority leader who has taken a great deal of time in focusing attention on the Taiwan problem.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the House today is commemorating a very, very special event: The first democratic election leading to a transfer of power in the 5,000-year history of the Chinese people.

This is, indeed, a momentous event not only for the Chinese, not only for Taiwan, but for the cause of democracy itself. It was not that long ago, Mr. Speaker, that many people believed that democracy may be a dying creed. I remember as recently as 1984, one French philosopher respected by some friends of mine wrote that the era of democracy may be, and I quote, "a brief parenthesis that is even now closing before our eyes."

There was a popular view, shared by conservative pessimists as well as left-wing revolutionaries, that some form of dictatorship was the only alternative to even worse forms of government.

At best, these people believed that democracy was only appropriate for some cultures, but not for most. Though they rarely said so, what they really meant was that it was only suited for some kinds of people and not for others. Certainly, not for Asians who, it was said, had unique "Asian values." That made democracy unsuited for them and they unsuited for democracy.

Well, Mr. Speaker, how wrong they were. The Taiwan elections vindicate once again the great wisdom of the American founding fathers when they wrote these wonderful words that "All men are created equal" and all men "are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights."

Mr. Speaker, freedom and democracy are not more precious for our culture than they are for the people of other cultures. There are no alien values that lead some people to prefer dictatorship over self-government. Freedom and democracy are, in fact, the shared aspirations of all human beings everywhere, from Athens to England to America indeed to all of Asia.

Taiwan can now serve as a shining example to the unfree people in its part of the world. It shows that democracy works in a Chinese culture. It shows that democracy can resist threats and bullying from abroad. It shows that democracy is the only way that a Nation can be both rich and free.

Mr. Speaker, let me add that even as we rejoice in Taiwan's democratic success, we also wish to aid all the Chinese people as they seek greater freedom, and that includes those in the People's Republic of China. It is for this reason